

## 2024 HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

# CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY OF STEWARDSHIP

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 | 8 AM - 6 PM | SACRED OAKS @ CAMP LUCY

8:45 – 9:00	<b>Welcome to the 2024 Hill Country Leadership Summit</b>
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Preserving the Night Sky</b> <i>Renowned for its scenic beauty, the Texas Hill Country continues to experience rapid growth and development as many seek a piece of it for themselves. This expansion has intensified the battle to preserve dark skies, which are crucial for all living creatures. Stephen will share more on his work with the McDonald Observatory to raise awareness, implement change, and find a balance between progress and protection of our natural nightscape across the region and beyond.</i> Stephen Hummel - McDonald Observatory
9:30 – 10:15	<b>Planting Seeds for Community Stewardship</b> <i>As our region continues to move toward an unpredictable natural resource landscape, the connection between urban and rural portions of the Hill Country will be increasingly vital to ensuring the future of the region. How can the widening of our perspective on community impact our region? And how will planting seeds for the future help shape the reframing of our perspective?</i> Moderator: Sarah Coles - Texas Children in Nature Network Panelists: Fidel Campuzano Gonzalez – Austin Youth River Watch   Tom Corser – Arboretum San Antonio
10:15 – 10:45	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45 – 11:30	<b>Supporting Stewardship, One Landowner at a Time</b> <i>There is a tendency in natural resources management to focus on tools, practices, dollars, and acres. While these are important aspects of management, they often overlook the underlying principles of stewardship. This presentation will focus on the concept of land stewardship: cultivating a relationship with and connection to the land. Steve Nelle will draw insights from Aldo Leopold's writings as well as his own 48-year career working with hundreds of landowners across Texas.</i> Steve Nelle – NRCS (retired)
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Heart of the Hill Country Award honoring Steve Nelle and Brent Evans</b>
12:00 – 1:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
1:00 – 2:00	<b>KEYNOTE: 12 Steps to Town Making, 12 Months in Sabinal</b> <i>The secret to a great town or neighborhood is that it is shaped by many hands; however, even with rampant growth along the I-35 corridor, many Hill Country communities have faced stagnation and decline for decades. In this keynote presentation, Monte will explore how rural communities can revive their economies and develop new business opportunities. Afterwards, he will lead a discussion on town making in Sabinal, a small town in the southwestern Hill Country where locals have been convening for the past year to bring back their Main Street.</i> Keynote + Moderator: Monte Anderson – Neighborhood Evolution Panelists: Judge Cindy Casburn – Sabinal   Dr. Lex Brown
2:00 – 2:30	<b>BREAK</b>

**2:30 – 3:15**

**Building for a Water-scarce Future**

*As drought and population growth continues in the Hill Country, water supply is top of mind in most communities. New buildings and developments can put additional pressure on our water resource, but with the right design and technology they can also be a source of water supply. This panel will explore multiple case studies from across the Hill Country of local leaders and communities implementing water-efficient technology at the building scale.*

Moderator: Tara Bushnoe – Upper Guadalupe River Authority

Panelists: Art Crawford – Silver Sage Housing | Robert Stefani – Austin Permitting and Development Center | Dennis Lee – Wimberley Library

**3:15 – 3:45**

**Lightning Round: Achieving Conservation Wins through Storytelling – 5 minutes each**

- Pristine Streams: What Liberty Hill Could Mean – *Lauren Ice, Attorney*
- Joyful Learning Collaborative: The Story of Inclusivity, Accessibility, and Totality – *LaKeisha Harding, Thinkery*
- Comal County's First Parks Plan – *Commissioner Jen Crownover, Precinct 4*
- Private Dams on Public Waters: A South Llano River Story – *Glen Coleman, Llano River Watershed Alliance*
- Texas Centennial Parks Fund – *Justin Rhodes, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*
- Fighting Water Woes with a Kayak and a Camera – *Alexander Neal, Texas Rivers Protection Association*

**3:45 – 4:00**

**20 Years in the Rearview, Many More Ahead!**

Katherine Romans – Hill Country Alliance

**4:00 – 6:00**

**HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING RECEPTION**